

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 06951 011327Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 /091 W
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R 011246Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4580

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 06951

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, BE

SUBJECT: BELGO-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS

1. DURING JULY 31 CALL ON ZAIRE DESK OFFICER (JAENEN)
AT FOREIGN MINISTRY BY CHIEF ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION
DESIGNATE TO KINSHASA, NETTLES, WE LEARNED FOLLOWING TIDBITS.

2. BELGIANS HAVE PROPOSED AMBASSADOR KERREMANS FOR AN IMPORTANT
NEW ASSIGNMENT ABROAD AS AMBASSADOR. THIS IS BEING DONE TO
INDICATE CLEARLY THAT HE IS NOT CONSIDERED RESPONSIBLE
FOR RECENT HIATUS BELGO-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS. INFORMATION
IN THIS PARA SHOULD BE CONSIDERED NOFORN, INCLUDING WITH
OTHER BELGIANS, UNTIL ANNOUNCEMENT MADE.

3. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS SELECTED A CANDIDATE
TO REPLACE KERREMANS IN KINSHASA, BUT BELGIAN GOVERNMENT
HAS NOT YET PASSED ON CANDIDACY AND AGREEMENT HAS NOT BEEN
REQUESTED. IN VIEW OF SUMMER ABSENCES, IT DOES NOT APPEAR
LIKELY THAT KERREMAN'S SUCCESSOR COULD REACH POST BEFORE
LATE SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER AT EARLIEST.

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 06951 011327Z

4. BELGIANS HAVE NOW RECEIVED FORMAL INVITATION FOR

PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT ZAIRE. INVITATION DELIVERED TO TINDEMANS BY MOBUTU'S SON. DATES ARE NOT SPECIFIED, BUT SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER APPEAR MOST LIKELY TO FOREIGN MINISTRY. BELGIANS WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THEIR NEW AMBASSADOR IN PLACE AT TIME OF VISIT. FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE AND CERTAIN OTHER MINISTERS WILL ACCOMPANY PRIME MINISTER.

5. THERE IS STILL AN ISSUE OUTSTANDING RE PRIME MINISTER'S TRIP TO ZAIRE. BELGIANS WOULD PREFER TO HAVE ALL SUBJECTS WHICH MIGHT COME UP DISCUSSED THOROUGHLY AT WORKING LEVEL BEFORE VISIT; ZAIRIANS WANT POLITICAL-LEVEL TALKS FIRST, TO BE FOLLOWED BY TECHNICAL LEVEL DISCUSSIONS. BELGIAN PREFERENCE IN THIS REGARD IS APT TO BE WAIVED IF ZAIRIANS CONTINUE TO INSIST ON THEIR PRESENT POSITION.

6. RE ZAIRE'S OVERDUE DEBT REPAYMENTS, BELGIANS ARE LETTING MATTERS SLIDE FOR THE MOMENT. ZAIRE IS TWO MONTHS BEHIND IN PAYMENTS DUE TO OR GUARANTEED BY BELGIUM, BUT ISSUE WILL NOT BECOME CRITICAL UNTIL ZAIRE FALLS SIX MONTHS IN ARREARS. BELGIANS HOPE THAT ZAIRE'S SITUATION WILL IMPROVE IN NEXT FOUR MONTHS.

7. ACCORDING TO BELGIAN IMFO, FRENCH WILL OFFER UP TO TWO YEAR MORATORIUM ON PAYMENTS ON ZAIRE'S DEBT TO FRANCE, EXCEPT FOR THAT PORTION OF DEBT DUE TO ZAIRE'S PURCHASE OF MIRAGES. FRENCH HOPE THAT ZAIRE'S PAYMENT FOR MIRAGES (WHICH IS TO FRENCH GOVERNMENT) WILL PERMIT FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO COVER ZAIRE'S DEBT TO PRIVATE FRENCH SOUGCES WITHOUT AFFECTING FRANCO-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS. JAENEN DID NOT INDICATED THAT BELGIAN GOVERNMENT IS PRESENTLY CONSIDERING ANY DEBT RELIEF BUT SPECULATED THAT GOZ WILL SURELY REQUEST IT IF FRENCH EXTEND SUCH. FIRESTONE

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